

Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii

Implementation of Public Housing Resident Community Service Requirements

Administrative steps taken to implement the program:

- **Schedule Changes in leases:**

In response to the PHRA of 1998, the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii (HCDCH) has developed the Community Service program. The new program implementation date is currently on temporary hold pending formal HUD rule changes.

- **Development of written description of the service requirement:**

Community Service Activities. The term community service is defined in 24 CFR Part 906.601 as the performance of voluntary work or duties that are a public benefit, and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-responsibility in the community. The following examples are considered community service activities:

1. Actively participating in a community Voluntary Tenant Patrol
2. Participating in an anti-graffiti program by monitoring and eliminating graffiti in the housing community.
3. Assisting in grounds maintenance and community beautification project.
4. Assisting with a literacy and self-esteem program in an after-school youth program.
5. Assisting in a senior center providing elderly families with information on various services such as transportation, meals, etc.
6. Assisting in a homeless shelter kitchen.
7. Volunteering at the food bank.
8. Assisting with a youth sports or mentoring program.
9. Participating in a tutoring program.

Self-Sufficiency Activities. Any economic self-sufficiency program designed to encourage, assist, train, or facilitate the economic independence of public housing residents or families to provide work for such families. The following are example activities that meet the definition of self-sufficiency program:

1. Job training (such as basic office skills, resume writing, interview skills, dress for success, office equipment).
2. Employment counseling.
3. Work placement.
4. Basic skills training.
5. Education (such as secondary education).
6. English proficiency.

7. Financial management or budgeting classes.
8. Household management.
9. Life skills (such as health and wellness classes).
10. Apprenticeship or vocational training.
11. Substance abuse treatment.
12. Mental health treatment program.

Ineligible Activities.

1. Part-time or full-time employment (including seasonal or temporary employment).
2. Political activities (such as lobbying, campaigning, advocacy activities).
3. Any activities performed or work ordinarily performed by HCDCH employees.
4. Community Service activities shall not replace a job at any administrative office or public housing complex where residents perform activities to satisfy the service requirement (24 CFR Part 960.609).

- **Written notification to residents regarding requirement or exempt status of each adult family member:**

All current residents and new applicants will be provided written notice of the community service and self-sufficiency requirement and a description of program procedures, and informed through community meetings. HCDCH has suspended providing each household a copy of the program description pending official HUD rule changes. The program description will include information regarding general program policy; determination of exempt and non-exempt family members; description of the process for reviewing compliance; and required documentation for service requirement performance. Residents will be sent a quarterly reminder to provide HCDCH with documentation of their service activities during the lease period. All current residents will be required to enter into the revised lease agreement, which includes the community service requirement, at their re-certification. This action has been temporarily suspended pending final HUD implementation rules.

- **Entering into cooperative agreements with TANF agency to assist in verifying residents' status:**

The HCDCH shall also enter into a formal written agreement with the Department of Human Services (the State of Hawaii's TANF agency) to coordinate the verification of participation in community service activities or duties in compliance with the Community Service Requirement.

- **Who will administer the program:**

The Community Service and Self-Sufficiency Program shall be implemented and administered by the HCDCH's Property Management and Maintenance Branch staff.

- **Programmatic aspects of the requirement including types of activities residents may participate in to fulfill their obligations:**

Residents participating in community service and self-sufficiency activities are persons who are unemployed and may have been out of the work force for some period of time. Depending upon the type of activities under the HCDCH's program, residents can benefit from participating in these activities including:

1. Significant experience or exposure to various volunteer work or duties that are a public benefit and that serve to improve the quality of life, enhance resident self-sufficiency, or increase resident self-sufficiency in the community.
2. Opportunity to explore training and employment areas that may not have been available in the past.
3. Opportunity to be exposed to different types of job skills and work environments.
4. Contacts with possible agencies or employers that the resident may never have had the opportunity to interact with prior to this experience.
5. Increased confidence in the residents' skills and abilities that may encourage them to pursue permanent employment or training.

The HCDCH shall maintain written documentation of a resident's exempt or non-exempt status and documentation of community service performance in the participant files. Documentation shall include written verification by a third party and include the residents' name and address, the dates and number of hours of service performed, and certification by the third party that the service was performed in compliance with the Community Service requirement.